

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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FACT SHEET

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Innovation Advisors Program

OVERVIEW

On October 17, 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it was accepting applications for the Innovation Advisors Program. The Innovation Advisors Program is designed to broadly help individuals refine, apply, and sustain managerial and technical skills necessary to drive delivery system reform for the benefit of Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries.

This fact sheet provides a general description of the Innovation Advisors Program and the application process for prospective participants.

BACKGROUND

The Innovation Center was created by the Affordable Care Act to test new models of health care delivery and payment. As part of its mission, the Innovation Center also seeks to offer technical support to providers to improve the coordination of care, and share lessons learned and best practices widely throughout the healthcare system. It is committed to transforming the Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP programs to deliver better care for beneficiaries, better health for populations and slower growth in expenditures through improvement for Medicare beneficiaries.

This program will support individuals who can test and refine new models to drive delivery system reform. The Innovation Center seeks to deepen the capacity of transforming the larger health care system and build the essential infrastructure and assistance for driving change by creating and supporting experts in these areas in communities across the country.

INNOVATION ADVISORS PROGRAM

Crucial to the efforts of transforming the healthcare system is supporting individuals who can test and refine new models to drive delivery system reform. The Innovation Center seeks to deepen the capacity

for transformation by creating a network of experts in improving the delivery system for Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.

The Innovation Advisors Program will allow skilled individuals in the health care system to deepen several key skill sets, including:

- Health care economics and finance;
- Population health;
- Systems analysis; and
- Operations research.

These individuals will:

- Support the Innovation Center in testing new models of care delivery;
- Utilize their knowledge and skills in their home organization or area in pursuit of the three-part aim of improving health, improving care, and lowering costs through continuous improvement;
- Work with other local organizations or groups in driving delivery system reform;
- Develop new ideas or innovations for possible testing of diffusion by the Innovation Center; and
- Build durable skill in system improvement throughout their area or region.

The Innovation Advisors Program will select and develop as many as 200 individuals from across the nation in its first year. The first group of Innovation Advisors will start their six-month intensive orientation and applied research period in December 2011.

Eligibility Criteria:

Individuals who apply to be Innovation Advisors can be any professional employed by a public health or health care facility, institution or department. Candidates include, but are not limited to, physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, instructors, and non-clinicians (i.e. health care executives, practice managers) with experience in the health care field. Management experience will be viewed as an asset.

Agreements with Innovation Advisors will be made with each accepted individual's home organization or group.

Advisors will not become employees of CMS, any other government office or agency. Each participating Advisor's home organization will receive a stipend in conjunction with their participation. The Advisors are expected to commit up to 10 hours per week during an initial six-month period, with similar involvement thereafter depending on an individual's proposed work plan. Selected individuals will receive guidance and specific information related to the required activities of the program in various on-site and in-person meetings as well as ongoing meetings that will occur primarily through remote, virtual sessions. Advisors will also meet together at a regional level each quarter and at CMS once each year to exchange insights, report on breakthrough successes and solve joint challenges.

Advisors will be expected to devote a certain percentage of their time to assist the Innovation Center in supporting local change and assisting the Innovation Center in connecting peer participants across the nation in an exchange of new ideas and innovations.

Selection Criteria:

The following criteria will be taken into account in selecting Innovation Advisors:

- The individual's career achievements;
- The individual's pre-existing skill set (and its relevance to transforming the healthcare delivery system for Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries);
- The quality of their proposed innovation project in their home organization or area; and
- Their organization's explicit commitment to their work.

Diversity of location and the individual's job type and its value to the program will also be considered.

Application Deadlines:

Applications for the Innovation Advisors Program can be accessed on the Innovation Center's website at <http://innovations.cms.gov/innovation-advisors-program>.

The deadline to submit applications is November 15, 2011. Innovation Advisors will be notified of their selection by mid-December 2011.